GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:168
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2001
EXPOSURE OF STORES AT CODS
KAMAL NATH

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a review of the space utilised by the Central Ordnance Depots has revealed that stores weighing over thirty thousand tonnes valued at over Rs. one fifty crore, are lying in the open, exposing them to vagaries of weather and deterioration; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) & (b): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 168 FOR 8.3.2001

Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) in his report on `Review of Inventory Management in Ordnance Services` published under reference of Union Government (Defence Services) No. 7A of 2000, had observed that stores weighing over 30,000 tonnes valued at over Rs. 150 crores were lying in the open in five Central Ordnance Depots assessed by the CAG.

As per the procedure in vogue, stores initially received in the depots are inspected, accounted for and subsequently stored in sheds. This being an ongoing process, a percentage of serviceable inventory, therefore, will be lying in the open at any given time for a prescribed & limited period.

Instructions have been issued to all concerned to ensure storage of serviceable inventory in the covered accommodation to avoid lossess due to vagaries of weather. All serviceable inventory lying in open at the time of the visit of the Audit Team has since been placed in proper storage accommodation. As per the latest report, about 400 tonnes of inventory costing Rs. 1.50 crores approximately comprising of obsolete and unserviceable items is lying in the open in these Depots awaiting disposal.